

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the detailed Office Action dated October 3, 2005. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 1-9, 16-30, 32-34 and 39-59 were pending in the application. Claims 18, 32-34, 49, and 58-59 are requested to be cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-5, 16, and 47 are currently being amended. After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-9, 16-17, 19-30, 39-48, and 50-57 are now pending in this application.

Claim Rejections

Of the claims rejected by the Patent Office in the Office Action dated October 3, 2005, claims 1, 16, 32-34, 47, and 58 were in independent format. Applicants have cancelled claims 32-34 and 58. Applicants have rewritten claim 1 as suggested by the Examiner in the Office Action to recite a separation cartridge in the preamble. Applicants have incorporated the subject matter of dependent claim 18, which was indicated as reciting allowable subject matter, into independent claim 16. Applicants have also incorporated the subject matter of dependent claim 49, which was indicated as reciting allowable subject matter, into independent claim 47. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the outstanding rejections have been overcome and this application is in condition for allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 6-9, 20-30, 39, 41-43 and 50-57 have been allowed and that claims 5, 18, 40, 44-46, 48, and 49 recite allowable subject matter.

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Applicants respectfully submit that each and every outstanding objection and rejection has been overcome, and the present Application is in a condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Applicants respectfully put the Patent Office and all others on notice that all arguments, representations, and/or amendments contained herein are only applicable to the present patent application and should not be considered when evaluating any other patent or patent application including any patents or patent applications which claim priority to this patent application and/or any patents or patent applications to which priority is claimed by this patent application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1447. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 06-1447.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 3, 2006

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